

SUMMARY

2005 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

In the 10th year of the Consolidated Plan process, the City of Houston faces old and new challenges in efforts to serve and assist its low and moderate-income residents. Among the old, the ability to expand the number of safe, sanitary, affordable housing units, increase homeownership while ensuring that income-eligible residents have an opportunity to remain in neighborhoods undergoing gentrification. Among the new challenges, resolving operational and program issues so that critical resources (e.g., HOME funds, Emergency Home Repair Program, etc.) are available to support revitalization strategies. Challenges and resources are prominent components of the **2005 Consolidated Plan**, which outlines both priorities and improvement strategies for a five-year period, covering 2005 – 2009, and adoption of a one-year action plan.

A major part of this planning process focused on an assessment of “need,” which was addressed through distribution of a survey and securing input from the Advisory Task Force for the Consolidated Plan. A Community Needs Assessment Survey was distributed throughout Houston and 2,450 were completed and returned. Based on responses to the survey, “Housing,” “Jobs,” “Social Services,” and “Infrastructure” were selected as “priority needs” by residents. In addition to neighborhood improvement, the survey also assessed Houstonians’ opinions about Homelessness and Fair Housing issues. Alone with the survey, the Advisory Task Force, a cross-section of agency representatives and community leaders, provided input about “needs” and recommended strategies to address identified deficiencies. Input was also solicited from the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area regarding the needs of the HIV Positive population.

Having identified “needs,” the goal of the **2005 Consolidated Plan** is to promote strategies that will result in the creation of (1) **suitable living environments**, (2) **improvement of the housing stock** and (3) **expansion of economic development opportunities** for Houstonians, the majority of whom are low and moderate-income (53.5 percent) and minority (70.8 percent). The significance of “housing” as a priority need is reflected in the fact that 26.3 percent of homeowners and 47.6 percent of renters in Houston have contended with some type of housing problem (2000 U. S. Census).

The **2005 Consolidated Plan** contains an Executive Summary and chapters that cover Managing the Process, describing the Plan’s development, the Strategic Plan, outlining Five-Year goals (Housing, Social Services, Economic Development and Infrastructure), followed by a description of activities to be undertaken during the next fiscal year (July 2005 – June 2006) and areas to be targeted for improvements. The report includes an Annual Plan, the proposed use of funds during Fiscal Year 2006 and Applications for federal funds. The

Consolidated Plan also includes Public Comments, Certifications and Appendices.

Specifically, the **2005 Consolidated Plan** describes how the \$59,832,334 in federal funds, the estimated \$3,500,000 in program income and the prior years reallocation of \$2,000,000 will be used to benefit income-eligible residents during the 31st Program Year (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006). The sources of federal funds are:

Community Development Block Grant	\$ 34,244,067
CDBG Program Income	\$ 3,000,000
Prior Year Reallocation	\$ 2,000,000
Emergency Shelter Grants	\$ 1,324,356
HOME Investment Partnerships	\$ 14,061,162
HOME Program Income	\$ 500,000
American Dream Down Payment Initiative	\$ 533,749
Housing Opportunities for Person With AIDS	\$ 9,669,000

TOTAL	\$65,332,334
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Based on priorities the following represents the proposed funding activities covered in the **2005 Consolidated Plan**.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Street Overlays/Reconstruction	\$ 3,250,000
Park Improvements	\$ 2,500,000
SPARK (School Park Program)	\$ 400,000
Neighborhood Facilities Improvements	\$ 2,500,000
Solid Waste	\$ 560,000
Blight Removal	\$ 578,468
Housing	\$ 5,156,000
Public Services	\$ 5,184,884
Emergency Shelter Grant (Match)	\$ 700,000
Coalition for the Homeless	\$ 133,415
Economic Development Assistance Program	\$ 5,950,000
Dangerous Buildings Administration/Legal Department/ Code Enforcement	\$ 4,483,000
Program Administration	\$ 7,848,300

TOTAL	\$ 39,244,067
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EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS

Essential Services	\$ 397,307
Operations	\$ 463,524
Homeless Prevention	\$ 397,307
Administration	\$ 66,218

TOTAL \$ 1,324,356

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS

(Includes American Dream Down Payment Initiative)

Single Family Down Payment Assistant-New Homes	\$ 3,533,749
Single Family Down Payment Assistant-Existing Homes	\$ 2,455,046
Single Family Rehabilitation/Lease Purchase	\$ 2,250,000
Multifamily Acquisition/Rehabilitation New Construction/ Relocation	\$ 4,400,000
Transitional Housing/Single-Room Occupancy	\$ 1,000,000
Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) Operations	\$ 50,000
Program Administration	\$ 1,406,116

TOTAL \$ 15,094,911

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSON WITH AIDS

Acquisition/Rehab/Conversion/Repairs/Lease	\$ 480,000
New Construction	\$ 1,000,000
Operating Cost	\$ 750,000
Technical Assistance/Housing Information/Resource Identification	\$ 14,000
Supportive Services	\$ 2,700,000
Project or Tenant-based Rental Assistance	\$ 1,200,000
Short Term Rent Mortgage and Utility Subsidies	\$ 2,700,000
Grantee Administration	\$ 290,000
Sponsor Administration	\$ 535,000

TOTAL \$ 9,669,000

A public hearing on the **2005 Consolidated Plan** is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Former City Council Chambers (900 Bagby). **Contact the Housing and Community Development. Department (HCDD) if special arrangements are needed.** Copies of the draft 2005 Consolidated Plan will be available through HCDD on April 25th. The public is invited to comment on the Consolidated Plan during the 30-day review period, which extends from Monday, April 11, 2005 through Tuesday, May 10, 2005. Copies of the Plan will be placed at branch libraries for public review. The **2005 Consolidated Plan** may be reviewed and downloaded at (www.houstonhousing.org) after April 25, 2005. For more information call Paulette Wagner at (713) 868-8441.